

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of fabricating a heat and effusion resistant fuel tank comprising the steps of;  
combining a thermoplastic and amorphous silica into a compound[[],]  
by mixing granules of the thermoplastic with a powder of amorphous silica,  
heating the compound, and  
forming a hollow fuel tank with a filler opening with the compound.
2. **(Cancelled)**
3. **(Currently Amended)** A method as set forth in claim [[2]] 1  
including heating the compound to a viscous form.
4. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 3 further defined as heating the compound to a temperature of between 200 and 500 degrees Fahrenheit.
5. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 4 further defined as heating the thermoplastic to a viscous condition and then adding the amorphous silica powder.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 5 further defined as compounding the thermoplastic and amorphous silica in an extruder.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 6 including extruding the compound into a strand and dividing the strand into pellets of the homogenous compound.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 7 including heating the pellets of the compound into a viscous condition and molding the fuel tank.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 8 wherein the amorphous silica is in the range of 10% to 30% by volume of the compound.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A method of fabricating a heat and effusion resistant fuel tank comprising the steps of;  
heating and mixing pellets of a thermoplastic with a powder of amorphous silica into a viscous compound, and  
forming a hollow fuel tank with a filler opening with the compound.

11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Cancelled)**

13. (New) A method of fabricating a heat and effusion resistant fuel tank comprising the steps of:

mixing granules of a thermoplastic with a powder of amorphous silica to combine the thermoplastic and amorphous silica into a compound,  
adding the compound into an extruder,  
heating the compound in the extruder to reach a viscous condition to form a homogenous compound,  
extruding the compound through the extruder to form a strand of the compound,  
cooling the strand into a solid,  
chopping the strand into pellets,  
pouring the pellets into a barrel of a molding machine,  
heating the barrel of the molding machine to turn the pellets into a viscous paste, and  
injecting the viscous paste into a mold to form a hollow fuel tank.